

Mister Chairman, members of the committee, for the record, my name is Wayne Stahl. I am the State Representative from House District 35 including Valley County. Today I am representing the Valley County Pioneer Museum in Glasgow, Montana. I am testifying on behalf of Grant Number 1208 requesting funding for a Special Project Grant to secure Display Archival Lighting.

From before the time our museum was actually built in 1971, until now in 2007, we have relied heavily on the many volunteers who have worked endless hours creating something Valley County could be proud of. In updating our display lighting, our hope is to further preserve and visibly promote what we have worked so hard to procure.

To confirm our belief that ours is not only an important part of Valley County, but one that is supported and treasured by the community, we have compiled a few statements from residents of the area. The following are excerpts from letters of support for our museum and the work done by our support groups - Friends of the Pioneer Museum and the local Historical Society.

The first was written by Betty Stone, General Manager of the Cottonwood Inn in Glasgow writes: "The Pioneer Museum is a cornerstone of the tourism attraction in Glasgow and along U.S. Highway 2. At the Cottonwood Inn, it is one of the key visitations we recommend to people who are traveling to and through our town."

Marj Markle, Principal of Glasgow High School writes "The Museum is very well maintained, constantly striving to upgrade, and works very hard to provide a wonderful service to our area."

Other citizens write: "Your museum preserves the history of our region. It provides roots for our children and reference for historical information." "Since the Pioneer Museum's services are utilized not only by local, but also by people across the state, the museum has become an important fixture in the historical service system of the state. Funding of the Pioneer Museum with the grant proposal would be of benefit not only to local citizens and students but also to historical agencies across the state."

A Glasgow mother writes "as a parent, my children and I spent many afternoons at the museum looking at the displays and reading about our area...whether you are visiting the area or currently residing here, the Pioneer Museum provides endless hours of opportunity to learn about our culture and heritage."

And finally from Stephen Henderson: "As Superintendent of Hinsdale Schools, I will attest to the fact that our elementary and secondary students have visited your building and found your resources of high educational quality and your staff extremely cooperative and helpful. Many times, I have heard positive comments of support and praise from students, staff and community regarding the Pioneer Museum. We, here in Hinsdale, treasure the opportunity to utilize your expertise, artifacts and materials that you have made available to the public. Valley County and Northeast Montana benefit from and are fortunate to have the Pioneer Museum and its staff in our extended neighborhood. You are a valuable asset and learning medium."

In closing the Valley County Pioneer Museum Board Members would like to thank you for the opportunity to introduce ourselves to you and for your consideration in helping us further improve our displays. Our collection is historically rich and ever expanding. Archival lighting will provide added protection to our artifacts. This knowledge comes from the fact that "what we have can never be replaced." Thank you.

Just some miscellaneous information:

Our official name is Valley County Pioneer Museum - we have been called the Valley County Historical Museum but Pioneer is correct. I see that somehow they put the Valley County Historical Museum name on the docket. We are owned by Valley County. We are located on Hiway 2 West in Glasgow, Montana. Our phone number is 228-8692

Motto: From Dinosaur Bones to Moon Walk.

We have 3 boards, their main purposes are:

- 1) V.C.P.M. Board oversees the expenses for the County Commissioners
- 2) Friends of the Pioneer Museum's purpose is to financially support and improve the museum.
- 3) Valley County Historical Society's purpose is to secure and display artifacts.

We have a good security system.

Visitors to the museum average @ 500 per ~~year~~ *month May thru Sept.*

Hours and dates we are open vary from season-to-season depending on how much money we have to hire employees. We are always open Memorial Day through Labor Day but have been open the first part of May until the end of September. We now have an admissions fee, good for all season which is \$3.00 Adults, \$2.00 for Students 7-21 and Children under 7 are free.

Museum time-line

Historical Society formed	1964
Purchased 4 lots	1966
Museum built	1971
Additional lots purchased	1973
Structure enlarged	1977
"Friends" formed	1992
Structure enlarged again	1999

It is noted that if you don't know the answer to a question, to say so and find out as soon as possible. I'm not the most knowledable but we have a good network and I can usually find out an answer very quickly. Call my cell.

Corne

pronounced "Cor-eeen"